Numb. 191

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

——*Propter Vitam vivendi perdere Cauſas.* Juv.

From *Tueſday June* 27. to *Thurſday June* 29. 1710.

From my own Apartment, June 28.

OF all the Evils under the Sun, that of making Vice commendable is the greateſt: For it ſeems to be the Baſis of Society, that Applauſe and Contempt ſhould be always given to proper Objects. But in this Age we behold Things which we ought to have an Abhorrence, not only received without Diſdain, but even valued as Motives of Emulation. This is naturally the Deſtruction of Simplicity of Manners, Openneſs of Heart, and Generoſity of Temper. When one gives one's ſelf the Liberty to range, and run over in one's Thoughts the different Genius's of Men which one meets in the World, one cannot but obſerve, that moſt of the Indirection and Artifice which is uſed among Men, does not proceed ſo much from a Degeneracy in Nature, as an Affectation of appearing Men of Conſequence by ſuch Practices. By this means it is, that a cunning Man is ſo far from being aſhamed of being eſteem'd ſuch, that he ſecretly rejoices in it. It has been a Sort of Maxim, That the greateſt Art is to conceal Art; but I know not how, among ſome People we meet with, their greateſt Cunning is to appear cunning. There is *Polypragmon* makes it the whole Buſineſs of his Life to be thought a cunning Fellow, and thinks it a much greater Character to be terrible than agreeable. When it has once entered into a Man's Head to have an Ambition to be thought crafty, all other Evils are neceſſary Conſequences. To deceive is the immediate Endeavour of him who is proud of the Capacity of doing it. It is certain, *Polypragmon* does all the Ill he poſſibly can, but pretends to much more than he performs. He is contented in his own Thoughts, and hugs himſelf in his Cloſet, that tho' he is locked up there and doing nothing, the World does not know but that he is doing Miſchief. To favour this Suſpicion, he gives Half-Looks and Shrugs in his general Behaviour, to give you to underſtand that you don't know what he means. He is alſo wonderfully adverbial in his Expreſſions, and breaks off with a perhaps and a Nod of the Head upon Matters of the moſt indifferent Nature. It is a mighty Practice with Men of this Genius to avoid frequent Appearance in Publick, and to be as myſterious as poſſible when they do come into Company. There is nothing to be done, according to them, the common Way; and let the Matter in Hand be what it will, it muſt be carried with an Air of Importance, and tranſacted, if we may ſo ſpeak, with an oſtentatious Secrecy. Theſe are your Perſons of long Heads, who would fain make the World believe their Thoughts and Idea's are very much ſuperior to their Neighbours, and do not value what theſe their Neighbours think of them, provided they do not reckon them Fools. Theſe have ſuch a Romantick Touch in Buſineſs, that they hate to perform any Thing like other Men. Were it in their Choice, they had rather bring their Purpoſes to bear by overreaching the Perſons they deal with, than by a plain and ſimple Manner. They make Difficulties for the Honour of ſurmounting them. *Polypragmon* is eternally buſied after this Manner, with no other Proſpect than that he is in Hopes to be thought the moſt cunning of all Men, and fears the Imputation of Want of Underſtanding much more than that of the Abuſe of it. But alas! How contemptible is ſuch an Ambition, which is the very Reverſe of all that is truly laudable, and the very Contradiction to the only Means to a juſt Reputation, Simplicity of Manners? Cunning can in no Circumſtance imaginable be a Quality worthy a Man except in his own Defence, and meerly to conceal himſelf from ſuch as are ſo; and in ſuch Caſes it is no longer Craft, but Wiſdom. The monſtrous Affectation of being thought artful, immediately kills all Thoughts of Humanity and Goodneſs, and gives Men a Senſe of the ſoft Affections and Impulſes of the Mind (which are imprinted in us for our mutual Advantage and Succour) as of meer Weakneſſes and Follies. According to the Men of Cunning, you are to put off the Nature of a Man as faſt as you can, and acquire that of a Dæmon, as if it were a more eligible Character to be a powerful Enemy, than an able Friend. But it ought to be a Mortification to Men affected this Way, that there wants but little more than Inſtinct to be conſiderable in it; for when a Man has arrived at being very bad in his Inclination, he has not much more to do, but to conceal himſelf, and he may revenge, cheat, and deceive, without much Employment for Underſtanding, and go on with great Chearfulneſs with the high Applauſe of being a prodigious cunning Fellow. But indeed, when we arrive at that Pitch of falſe Taſt, as not to think Cunning a contemptible Quality, it is, methinks, a very great Injuſtice that Pick-pockets are had in ſo little Veneration, who muſt be admirably well turned, not only for the Theoretick, but alſo the Practical Behaviour of cunning Fellows. After all the Endeavour of this Family of Men whom we call cunning, their whole Work falls to Pieces, if others will lay down all Eſteem for ſuch Artifices, and treat it as an unmanly Quality, which they forbear to practiſe only becauſe they abhor it. When the Spider is ranging in the different Apartments of his Web, it is true that he only can weave ſo fine a Thread; but it is in the Power

Power of the meereſt Drone that has Wings to fly through and deſtroy it.

Will's Coffee-houſe, June 28.

Tho' the Taſt of Wit and Pleaſure is at preſent but very low in this Town, yet there are ſome that preſerve their Reliſh undebauched with common Impreſſions, and can diſtinguiſh between Reality and Impoſture. A Gentleman was ſaying here this Evening, That he would go to the Play to Morrow Night, to ſee Heroiſm, as it has been repreſented by ſome of our Tragedians, repreſented in Burleſque. It ſeems, the Play of *Alexander* is to be then turned into Ridicule for its Bombaſt, and other falſe Ornaments in the Thought as well as the Language. The Bluſter *Alexander* makes, is as much inconſiſtent with the Character of an Hero, as the Roughneſs of *Clytus* an Inſtance of the Sincerity of a bold artleſs Soldier. To be plain is not to be rude, but rather inclines a Man to Civility and Deference; not indeed to ſhow it in the Geſtures of the Body, but in the Sentiments of the Mind. It is, among other Things, from the impertinent Figures unskilful Dramatiſts draw of the Characters of Men, that Youth are bewildered and prejudiced in their Senſe of the World, of which they have no Notions but what they draw from Books and ſuch Repreſentations. Thus talk to a very young Man, let him be of never ſo good Senſe, and he ſhall ſmile when you ſpeak of Sincerity in a Courtier, good Senſe in a Soldier, or Honeſty in a Politician. The Reaſon of this is, That you hardly ſee one Play wherein each of theſe Ways of Life is not drawn by Hands that know nothing of any one of them: And the Truth is ſo far of the oppoſite Side to what they paint, that it is more impracticable to live in Eſteem in Courts than any where elſe without Sincerity. Good Senſe is the great Requiſite in a Soldier, and Honeſty the only Thing that can ſupport a Politician. This Way of Thinking made the Gentleman of whom I was juſt now ſpeaking ſay, He was glad any one had taken upon him to depreciate ſuch unnatural Fuſtian as the Tragedy of *Alexander*. The Character of that Prince indeed was, That he was unequal, and given to Intemperance; but in his ſober Moments, when he had warm in his Imagination the Precepts of his great Inſtructor, he was a Pattern of generous Thoughts and Diſpoſitions, in Oppoſition to the ſtrongeſt Deſires which are incident to a Youth and Conqueror. But inſtead of repreſenting that Hero in the glorious Character of Generoſity and Chaſtity, in his Treatment of the beauteous Family of *Darius*, he is drawn all along as a Monſter of Luſt or of Cruelty; as if the Way to raiſe him to the Degree of an Hero, were to make his Character as little like that of a worthy Man as poſſible. Such rude and indigeſted Draughts of Things are the proper Objects of Ridicule and Contempt, and depreciating *Alexander*, as we have him drawn, is the only Way of reſtoring him to what he was in himſelf. It is well contrived of the Players to let this Part be followed by a true Picture of Life, in the Comedy called, *The Chances*, wherein Don *John* and *Conſtantia* are acted to the utmoſt Perfection. There need not be a greater Inſtance of the Force of Action than in many Incidents of this Play, where indifferent Paſſages, and ſuch that conduce only to the tacking of the Scenes together, are enlivened with ſuch an agreeable Geſture and Behaviour, as apparently ſhows what a Play might be, tho' it is not wholly what a Play ſhould be.

Advertiſements.

MOrning Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoe's (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

FOR Sale by the Candle, this Day being the 25th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at Four in the Afternoon, 48 Pipes and 12 Hhds. (only one Cask in a Lot) of new excellent Red Ribadavia Galicia Wine, neat, and lately imported from Vigo, in a Vault over-againſt the Custom-in Mark-lane, between Fenchurch-ſtreet and Tower-ſtreet. To be ſeen and taſted till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Crutched-Friars.

*** This Day is publiſh'd for the Month of May, Atlas Geographus: Or, A Compleat Syſtem of Geography, Ancient and Modern. With above 100 new Maps, and as many Cuts, &c. by the beſt Maſter's, with Sanſon's Tables, &c. The 25th for May, 1710. finiſhes the Hiſtory of the Roman Conſuls contains that of their Emperors; with an Account of the Rise of the Roman Empire by the Goths, &c. with 2 Maps, and Sanſon's Table of that Country. Printed by J. Nutt in the Savoy and ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the 24 preceding Months. Alſo, Bibliotheca Anatomica for June, and the Seven preceding Months. Pr. 1 s. each.

*** Juſt publiſhed, The Gameſters Law. Wherein is treated, of Unlawful Games; what Conſiderations are good to ground an Aſſumpſit for Money won upon Wagers and Bets several Caſes on particular Games, as, Dice, Cards, Horſe-Racing, Cock-Fighting, &c. of pleading the Statute 16 Car. 2 againſt exceſſive Gaming; and what Securities given for Money won at Play, are avoided by the ſaid Statute, in ſeveral nice Caſes argued and reſolved by the Judges; of Cheats in Gaming. Of the Power of the Juſtices in puniſhing Offenders, and ſearching Gaming Houſes. Printed for S. Butler at Bernard's Inn-Gate in Holborn.

*** This Day is publiſhed, A Treatiſe of Frauds, Covin, and Colluſion: Wherein is treated of Fraudulent Conveyances, of Fraudulent Mortgages, Marriage Agreements, in Wills, Aſſignments in Contracts, by falſe Affirmation, Counterfeits, Gaming, in Suites at Law, in Attorneys, Officers, Bankrupts, &c. What Conveyances ſhall be ſaid fraudulent or not in Reſpect of Conſideration or Revocation; Actions for Fraud and Covin, how to be laid, Declarations, Pleadings; Where Fraud may be pleaded, &c. Trial and Verdict, Indictment, Informations and Preſidents, &c. To which is added, An Abſtract of the Act 8 Q. A. againſt Frauds committed by Tenants. Printed for T. Osborne in Gray's-Inn near the Walks, and S. Butler at Bernards-Inn Gate in Holborn.

*** The Hiſtory of the Reign of Queen Ann, digeſted into Annals, Year the 8th, containing the moſt compleat and impartial Account of all Affairs Civil and Military, both at Home and Abroad, for the Year 1709. with a very large Account of the Proceedings againſt Dr. Sacheverel the laſt Seſſion of Parliament; more particularly the many remarkable Speeches that were made in the Houſe of Lords upon the ſeveral Articles of the Impeachment after the Tryal was over, and before they gave their Judgment in Weſtminſter-Hall, with ſeveral other Curioſities not taken notice of in the Tryal, nor in any other Book as yet publiſhed. Pr. 6 s. Printed for T. Ward in the Inner-Temple-Lane.

††† This Day is publiſhed, The Diſſenters repreſented and condemned by themſelves on the Points of the Vocation of their Miniſtry, the Conſtitution of their Churches, and the Separation from the Church of England. In a Letter from Mr. D. W. a Diſſenting Teacher, to one of his Flock who was gone aſtray; together with ſome further Account of their Principles and Practices upon thoſe Points. Printed for Henry Clements at the Half-Moon in St. Paul's Church-yard.

*** This Day is publiſhed, England's neweſt Way to dreſs all Sorts of Cookery, Paſtry, and all Pickles that are fit to be uſed. Adorned with Copper Plates, ſetting forth the Manner of placing Diſhes upon Tables, and the neweſt Faſhions of Mince-Pies. By Henry Howard, Free Cook of London, and late Cook to his Grace the Duke of Ormond. The Third Edition, with Additions of beautifying Waters, and other Curioſities. Sold by C. Coningsby at the Ink-Bottle againſt Clifford's-Inn-Gate in Fetter-lane in Fleet-ſtreet.

THE Two Shilling Lottery, that was in Turnſtile, is moved into Red-Lion-ſtreet, next Door but one to the Nag's Head, at Mrs. Smith's, a Milliner, and is made into a Twelvepenny one, and the Sixpenny one at the ſame Place, will be drawn this Day Sevennight, at the Apple-Tree in Holborn, over-againſt Chancery-lane End.

SAmuel Maynard, living in Lyde's-Court near St. Giles's Church, having had the Rheumatiſm and Sciatica for ſome Time, which hindered me from following my Buſineſs; but at laſt, to my great Satisfaction, I happily heard of Mr. Moore, Apothecary, at the Peſtle and Mortar in Abchurch-Lane, London, and by taking his Advice and Medicines, I am now ſo recovered, that I am capable of performing my Buſineſs as formerly. Witneſs my Hand, February 3. 1710. Samuel Maynard.

THE Royal Beautifier; or the greateſt Coſmetick in the World: Being the moſt incomparable Thing in Nature for the preſerving and reſtoring a good Complexion: It even to a Miracle fortifies the Skin againſt Wind and Sun, and makes ſuch as are pale and wan, look freſh and lively, and have a charming Countenance. It certainly takes away Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Scurf, Morphew, and Sun-burning; and miraculouſly makes the Complexion plump, freſh, ſmooth, and delicately fair, even to Admiration. It having met with great Applauſe amongſt Perſons of Quality and others; ſo that Perſons daily reſort from all Parts of the Town to fetch it. To prevent Counterfeits, it is only ſold at Lemery's Head at Charing-Croſs, at 2 s. 6 d. per Pot, with Directions at large.